



3rd -5th

October 5-6, 2013

DATE

Jonah

LESSON TITLE

Jonah 1-4 (Pg.1004-1006, Adventure Bible)

WHERE TO FIND IT

God Gives Jonah Another Chance

MAIN POINT

schedule

Hang out with kids (10 minutes): Ask kids about their week. Get kids into groups and play games together.

Large Group (30 minutes): Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group. And don't be afraid to redirect kids who aren't!

Small Group (20-30 minutes): Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you *all* have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

tips

Remind kids that the all-church Journey called Kingdom Come starts next week. And we're doing the Journey in Kids' Club too!

check-in/out

As kids leave, encourage them to share what they wrote on their fish cut-outs with their families!

large group heads up

Today, we're learning about how God gave Jonah—and the Ninevites—a second chance.



instructions

Goal: to help kids identify different traits of God's character and provide them with a tangible reminder of who God is

Why? Jonah's story reveals the full spectrum of who God is. It's important to consider the fullness of God.

Tip: If you don't get to the "dig deeper" questions because kids are exploring God's character, that's OK. But don't forget to send them home with "fish reminders."

small group

CONNECT

1. Share your name and one word to describe the best part of your week (if you've already connected before large group, move directly to question #2).
2. What's your favorite part of today's story (or the most surprising)?

REVIEW THE STORY

In Large Group, kids spent time relating to Jonah in order to help them understand the story. Now, let's shift our focus to what God did in this story.

- Break your group up into 2 teams.
- Give each team a **large piece of paper, markers, and a Bible.**
- The goal is to write down as many of the things GOD did in the story (in order)—and to remember more than the other team!
- Give teams 3-5 minutes, depending on their age (e.g. 3rd graders may need more time and help than 5th graders). The team who remembers the most wins!

Then read through/compare lists. Help them fill in any gaps. Then discuss this question: **What does this story show us about God?** (*Be sure that they identify that God demands obedience but is also gracious and quick to forgive us because he is so loving—help them write all the things it shows us about God on a separate—smaller—sheet of paper.*)

DIG DEEPER

3. Look at the small sheet of paper: Are any of these truths about God hard for you to believe? Why do you think that is?
4. Why do you think Jonah disobeyed God the first time?
5. Name a time you've disobeyed God. Why do you think we disobey sometimes?
6. How do you think Jonah felt when he was forgiven and rescued from the storm? How do you feel knowing God forgives you?

7. Why do you think Jonah got mad when God forgave the Ninevites?
8. Have you ever felt like somebody didn't deserve to be forgiven? Is there a chance you'd even done the same thing they did before? Tell us why you felt that way.
9. Have you ever been forgiven or loved when you didn't deserve it? Tell us about it.
(This is a great time to gently remind kids that we've all been rescued by Jesus—he took the punishment that we deserved.)

Ask kids: **What's your favorite part about God from today's story (or maybe the part that's hardest to believe—but that you want to remember)?** (Refer again to the small sheet you helped them create.)

- Give each kid a **fish** and let them write their favorite truth about God on it. Encourage them to look at it this week and thank God for that part of his character.

***Pray together, thanking God for each character trait your group identified in today's story.**

Extra time? Compare lists and truths between small groups! Choose a couple of kids to present, or ask kids to find somebody else in another group who wrote the same truth they did on the fish-shaped paper. Let them mingle and find other kids who noticed similar parts of God's character.

special notes

Today has many opportunities for audience response in order to get kids to truly engage in relating to Jonah's story. See the presenter tips for ideas on how to maximize engagement for your unique service and site. Adapt your presentation for your group!

presenter tips

(1) You could ask questions for audience response (as written in the script), (2) you could ask kids to respond by turning to tell one other person what they think, (3) you could ask kids to think in their heads and raise hands or do some motion to indicate that they thought of a response; then call on a couple of kids, (4) OR feel free to come up with another creative way to get kids to answer the questions!

script

Hi everybody. Welcome to Kids' Club! It's great to see you here today. We've got a pretty cool part of God's story to hear today. Remember, whenever we learn a new part of God's story, we learn more about God and who he is and how he loves us. Today's story is wild! Just wait 'til you hear it. But first, I have a question for you:

What does it mean when somebody "learns a lesson the hard way"? (Let kids respond.) Yeah, exactly! Usually, it means somebody gave us some good advice or told us what to do, we didn't listen, so something bad happened. Next time, we'll know to listen. For example, maybe a grandparent tells a little kid not to touch a hot stove because they'll get burned. If the little kid touches the stove anyway, they've just learned a lesson...the hard way.

INTRO: JONAH

Well, today's story is all about a guy named Jonah. He learned that when God asks him to do something, he should obey. But he learned this lesson *the hard way*.

See, God asked Jonah to go to a city called Nineveh and tell the people there to repent from the wrong things they were doing and turn toward God and start following him. That means God wanted to use Jonah to help a WHOLE city follow God. Pretty cool, huh?

But guess what? Jonah didn't want to go to Nineveh. So he tried to run away from God. Instead of going to Nineveh he got on a boat to sail the opposite direction, to a place called Tarshish. Let's just say God made it clear to Jonah that when GOD asks you to do something, he wants us to obey.



script continued

IMAGINE BEING JONAH

We're going to watch a video of Jonah's story. As you watch, pretend YOU are Jonah—everybody—girl or boy, doesn't matter. Imagine how you would feel if YOU were Jonah during EACH part of his story. Ready?

Video: God's Story / Jonah

Wow, what a story! Crazy, isn't it!? Now let's consider what it must have been like to be Jonah.

(Show picture of Jonah running away.) First of all, how do you think Jonah felt when God asked him to do one thing...and he did the exact opposite? How do you think he felt as he was boarding the boat to Tarshish? (Let kids respond.)

(Show picture of casting lots in a storm.) And how would you have felt when the storm was raging and you *knew* that if the other guys threw you overboard, they would be saved? (Let kids respond.) Do you think you would have had the courage to say, "Sure, throw me overboard!" (Let kids respond.)

(Show picture of Jonah in the whale.) Well, how about the fish's belly? How would you guys have felt if you were in the fish's belly? (Let kids respond.)

(Show Jonah being spit out.) How about after the fish spits Jonah out? Then how would he have felt? (Let kids respond.) Jonah actually prays a prayer of thanksgiving! He's SO grateful God gave him another chance.

(Show picture of Nineveh repenting.) When you got out, and obeyed God again—and all the people repented and turned away from their sin and toward God...THEN how would you feel? (Let kids respond.)

JONAH'S REACTION TO NINEVEH

Well, here's the crazy part: Jonah was MAD. He said, "God, I knew you would be compassionate and gracious and kind...you are so loving. You don't want to actually destroy Nineveh." And Jonah was *mad*. He *wanted* Nineveh to be destroyed for disobeying God, even though God had given *him* a second chance!

Why do you think Jonah felt like that? (Let kids respond.)

GOD'S REACTION TO JONAH

As you can probably imagine, God WANTED everybody in Nineveh to follow him. He loved the people of Nineveh just like he loved Jonah. But Jonah was still mad.

He actually left Nineveh and sat down outside the city. There, God caused a vine to grow above where Jonah was sitting so that it would give him shade from the hot sun. Jonah felt a little better...he was at least happy that God gave him the shade!



script continued

But by the next morning, God had caused a worm to eat the vine, so it didn't shade Jonah anymore. And right away, Jonah was furious again! Again God said, "Do you have any right to be angry?" After all, God had given him the vine for a day—he didn't have to do that. Then God says something pretty cool, something that shows how loving he is:

SLIDE: Jonah 4:10-11: But the Lord said, "You have been concerned about this vine. But you did not take care of it. You did not make it grow. It grew up in one night and died the next. Nineveh has more than 120,000 people. They can't tell right from wrong. Nineveh also has a lot of cattle. So shouldn't I show concern for that great city?"

Jonah loved the vine even though it showed up out of nowhere. God was telling Jonah that his pain at losing the vine is NOTHING compared to the pain it would cause God to destroy Nineveh. God created the Ninevites. He cared for them. He *loved* them. He even cared about the cows in their city!

So no matter how many wrong things the people of Nineveh have done, when they repented, God welcomed them back. Just like no matter how many things we have done wrong or lessons we have learned the hard way, we can repent and turn toward God too.

The story of Jonah is crazy to imagine. It shows us just how loving God really is—and how much he cares for each one of us. And it reminds us that even though God demands our obedience, he also loves us *dearly*.

WORSHIP

Let's sing a couple of songs to show God that we want to obey him and turn toward him—and thank him for loving us.

Music Video: Whale Spit (kids can just watch the video; no hand motions available)
Song: Because You Love Me

PRAY

Ask somebody to come and thank God for loving Jonah, the Ninevites, and us.



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PREP needs



small group supplies

Markers

Per small group:

- 2 Bibles
- 2 large sheets of paper
- 2 8x11" sheets of paper

Per kid: 1 fish-shaped cut-out (OT: IN-62/9604)

large group supplies

Adventure Bible (pp 1004-1006)

a/v needs

1. Video: God's Story / Jonah
2. The following images, each on a separate slide (jpegs in curriculum folder)
 - a. Jonah running away
 - b. Casting lots in the storm
 - c. Jonah in the fish
 - d. Jonah being spit out
 - e. The Ninevites repenting
3. SLIDE: Jonah 4:10-11: But the Lord

said, "You have been concerned about this vine. But you did not take care of it. You did not make it grow. It grew up in one night and died the next. Nineveh has more than 120,000 people. They can't tell right from wrong. Nineveh also has a lot of cattle. So shouldn't I show concern for that great city?"

4. Song: Whale Spit
5. Song: Because You Love Me

special room set-up

None needed

connect questions

Tell me about Jonah.

What did you learn about God today?

parent page

The story of Jonah reveals a lot about God's character, from his desire for our obedience to his gentle and unconditional love for us. Ask your kid about it. And if you want, watch a video of the first part of today's story on CrossroadsKidsClub.net. But make sure you read the book of Jonah in the Bible to find out what happened next!